



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 APRIL 1967

1. Greece

Yesterday's coup was carried out by a group of middle-grade officers without the authorization of the King or of the top military command.

The effect has been critically, if not irreparably, to undercut the position of the King and, perhaps, to weaken military unity. There are signs of confusion among the ranking generals.

Ambassador Talbot found the King seething with anger last night against those [redacted]

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[redacted] who had carried out the take-over. He seemed at a loss over what he could do and wondered aloud whether it would be wise to ask for US military support. He asked for US helicopters to evacuate the royal family in case this becomes necessary.

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The King said he had been forced into accepting the new government. The new prime minister, a civilian, seems to be merely a front man for the military--probably that group in the army responsible for the coup.

So far there has been very little bloodshed. At last word Athens was quiet and no outbreaks have been reported elsewhere.

2. Israel-Syria

Further serious incidents are in prospect as both sides continue to build up troop strength along their borders. United Nations officials have been unable to get either side to cease its provocations.

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3. Lebanon

President Hilu told Ambassador Porter on Tuesday that he is under political pressure to accept a recent Soviet offer of "massive" economic assistance. He explained that he would much prefer not to turn to Moscow, but that he will have little choice unless some US aid is forthcoming.

Hilu has real cause for concern. His development plans have bogged down for lack of money and radical pro-Nasir politicians are effectively exploiting growing unrest.

There is no reason to doubt that the Russians have made an offer to Lebanon if only to obtain a small economic foothold where they have previously had none.

4. Iran

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5. Afghanistan

A full-blown political crisis has erupted in Kabul and Prime Minister Maiwandwal could lose his job. The storm broke after circulation of allegations by an Afghan student in the US. The student, a protege of Ramparts magazine, claimed that Maiwandwal had been installed as prime minister with the secret backing of the US Government.

This is just the spark in the haystack. Maiwandwal has antagonized the tribal right by seeking reform and the nationalist left by cooperating with the West.

He felt obliged to submit his resignation on Tuesday. The King has not yet accepted it and would do so reluctantly.

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